

Claims

1. A method of providing charge information to a mobile station prior to the completion of a connection involving the mobile station, the method comprising:

during the setup phase of the connection, sending one or more CAI elements from the mobile telecommunications network with which the mobile station is registered, to the mobile station;

presenting a cost for the connection based on the CAI element(s) to the user of the mobile station; and

giving the user an opportunity to abort the connection setup prior to completion of the setup.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the connection is initiated by the mobile station, and said CAI element(s) is/are sent to the mobile station and the user given an opportunity to abort the setup, prior to the sending of an Initial Address Message (IAM) from the switching centre which receives the connection setup request from the station, to the switching centre responsible for the terminating node.

3. A method according to claim 1, wherein the connection is initiated by a third party, and said CAI element(s) being sent to said mobile station and the user given an opportunity to abort the setup, following the receipt of an Initial Address Message (IAM) at the switching centre responsible for the mobile station and prior to the sending of an Answer message (ANM) from that switching centre to the switching centre responsible for said third party.

4. A method according to claim 1, wherein the CAI element(s) is/are included in a CALL_PROCEED or FACILITY message sent from the switching centre responsible for the mobile station to the mobile station during an initial phase of the connection setup.

5. A method according to claim 1, wherein a decision by the user to abort the connection is carried to the switching centre in a DISCONNECT message.

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6. A method according to claim 1 and comprising using a timer at the mobile station or at the serving switching centre, the timer providing a fixed time period during which the user may select to abort and/or continue with the connection setup, after which a default action is taken.

7. A switching centre of a mobile telecommunications network, the switching centre comprising:

input means for receiving a connection setup request involving a mobile station registered with the switching centre;

means for sending one or more CAI elements to the mobile station relating to the proposed connection in response to receipt of a request; and

means for receiving a connection setup continue and/or abort instruction from the mobile station.

8. A mobile station for use in a mobile telecommunications network, the station comprising:

means for initiating a connection and for receiving an incoming call alert;

means for receiving one or more CAI elements from said network following initiation of a connection by the mobile station and/or receipt of a call set up alert, and prior to completion of the connection; and

means for sending a connection setup continue and/or abort instruction to the mobile network.

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